

Dodd's Cavalry in Skirmish with Villa Band; French Regain Gripon Vaux; Quit Forges Line

GERMANS DRIVEN BACK FROM CAILLETTE WOOD

Paris Admits Evacuation of Position Near Bethincourt.

GUNS BLAST WAY TO FORT BOURRUS

Kaiser Again Hurling His Troops Against Fortress in Dense Masses.

[By Cable to The Tribune.]
London, April 3.—As a result of violent French counter attacks last night and to-day, the situation at Verdun is improved, though still serious. The Germans have been driven from the western part of the village of Vaux, as well as from practically the whole of the Caillette Wood.

Thus the front door of the fortress, which the Crown Prince had partially battered open last week, is again closed and bolted.

West of the Meuse, however, the French position is more critical. Paris admits the evacuation of the line on the Forges Brook between Hancourt and Bethincourt. Thus the Germans are given control of the last section of the Bethincourt-Malancourt highway, and the former village, if it has not already been abandoned, must soon be.

Already Esnes and Fort Bois Bourrus, the first permanent fortification west of the river, are reported under German fire. With their communications thus freed, the Germans are not likely to be long in launching the assault.

German Drive Speeded Up.

The speed and the sustained intensity of the present offensive are already being commented on by observers, who see a change in German tactics. For more than a week the battle has been continuous about the fortress, without any of the lulls or pauses that marked the earlier stages of the struggle.

An assault no sooner stops in one place than another is launched elsewhere. There has been a return also to the massed charges, as in the first phase, and a disregard of life out of all proportion to the objective. It is as though the whole schedule of the Germans had been speeded up, which observers believe may be the case.

If Berlin is to reap any return from the moral effect of the fortress's capture—which is thought to have played a large part in the councils of the General Staff—it must be achieved quickly before Rumania joins the Allies or before the spring offensive opens.

Notwithstanding that the situation west of the Meuse is still critical, observers are more sanguine of General Petain's defense. The strength of the French counter attacks has inspired fresh confidence. From the steady grinding gain of the Germans last week it was feared that the morale of the French had been shaken, or that their artillery had again been overpowered by the fresh German batteries, known to have been recently brought up. With the same initiative about west of the Meuse as was shown at Vaux, it is believed that the fortress will no longer be in serious peril.

Paris Reports Gain.

Recounting to-day's gain, the Paris War Office said:

"East of the Meuse our counter attacks developed success. In the course of the day we drove back the enemy as far as the northern outskirts of the Caillette wood and to the north of the Vaux pond. A last counter attack, particularly spirited, enabled us to re-occupy the west part of the village of Vaux, which we had evacuated."

"In the Where there was intense artillery activity in the Moulainville sector."

"West of the Meuse the Germans launched yesterday at the end of the day a vigorous attack, against our positions on the north bank of the Forges Brook, which we had evacuated, withdrawing to the south bank in the night of March 31-April 1, without the enemy receiving it. Surprised by a violent fire directed from our new positions and a banking fire from Bethincourt, the enemy forces suffered heavy losses without having been able to fight."

"To-day the bombardment was quite violent in the region of Bois Bourrus, but there was no infantry action."

"Avocourt Wood is Shelled."

"Between Solsonas and Rheims we carried out concentrated fires against the German organizations north of the Butte Wood and Mount Sayngneul."

"In the Argonne our batteries vio-

HARDEN ASKS PEACE, CALLS WAR 'MISTAKE'

Famous German Editor Declares All Are to Blame.

[By Cable to The Tribune.]
London, April 3.—A remarkable article by Maximilian Harden, appealing for an immediate peace, appears in "Die Zukunft," according to an Amsterdam dispatch to "The Daily Express." It is especially interesting as it has been passed for publication by the Berlin military censors. Harden writes:

"In spite of almost uncountable victories, in spite of the fact that our land is free from the enemies' armies and that we occupy a conquered area about as large as the United Kingdom, we think the war is a cruel misfortune, the recurrence of which must be prevented by all possible means. Let us come to the conclusion that the war was a mistake, made not by one but by all. Let us end it and organize peace."

RATHER THAN LOSE DOG SHE KEEPS HUSBAND

And He? Oh, He Sues Her for Not Signing Separation Deeds.

Mrs. Mary C. Cook, of Babylon, L. I., was willing and eager to part with one husband, one pie knife, one cheese scoop, twelve teaspoons, and other similar articles named in her tentative separation agreement, but when to this list of valuables was added the name of "Little Miss Midget," her dog, she balked right there.

Rather than give up her pet, she is determined to remain Mr. Cook's legal wife. Her spouse, on the other hand, became wrathful yesterday when she failed to appear at her lawyer's to sign the separation deeds, and brought suit against his wife demanding \$5,000 damages.

For the sake of "Little Miss Midget," Mrs. Cook scorned the house and two lots at Babylon, the automobile, the fire insurance policies, and the furniture, relinquishing conditionally to her by her husband—and she still refuses to sign the agreement which will take the dog from her.

MILITIA CALLED OUT IN HAVERHILL RIOT

Semi-Religious Meeting Prevented by Great Crowd.

Haverhill, Mass., April 3.—The local company of the state militia was called out to-night by Mayor Albert L. Bartlett to assist the police in controlling 5,000 persons in a riotous demonstration near the City Hall. Many windows in the building were broken by missiles.

The crowd gathered as a result of an attempt to hold a meeting in the hall for the discussion of state aid for sectarian schools. The meeting was regarded as anti-Catholic.

Thomas E. Leyden, of Somerville, who was announced as an ex-Roman Catholic priest, had been advertised as the speaker. When the hour for the meeting arrived the crowd in front of the hall was so dense that the police decided the meeting could not be held, and the doors of the building were closed.

Finding the police powerless to control the situation, the Mayor, about 11 o'clock, called out the militia. The sounding of the signal on the fire alarm brought thousands of citizens.

A barrel of gasoline mysteriously exploded in hold No. 1. Charles Peterson and Pasquale la Mura, laborers at work in hold No. 2, formed a bucket brigade and extinguished the blaze, but only after they had been badly burned about the arms and face. They were taken to the Long Island Hospital.

Seven other laborers had burns of several degrees.

The explosion, which is one of several which have taken place at the piers of the New York Dock Co., is being investigated by Fire Marshal Brophy.

The Marta is to sail Thursday for Havre. She is one of several ships to carry several millions of dollars' worth of combustible materials to the Allies.

Part of the consignment was taken by the steamship Older and Queens-town, which sailed yesterday morning for Bordeaux. Brooklyn police believe the barrel which exploded contained an infernal machine and was meant for one of the boats which cleared.

ALLIES REJECT MAIL PROTEST

Present Reply to U.S. Through British Ambassador.

PARCEL POST TO BE SEARCHED

No Legitimate Letters Seized or Treaty Violated, Is Answer.

Washington, April 3.—The governments of the Entente Allies, through Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, the British Ambassador, presented to Secretary Lansing today a joint reply to the protests made by the United States against the seizure, detention and censoring of neutral mails. It declared that no legitimate letter mail had been confiscated nor any treaty rights violated, but emphatically asserted the Allies' intention to continue searching parcel post packages for contraband "concealed under postal folders."

In regard to "true correspondence" the note says, the Allied governments "will continue for the present to refrain from seizing and confiscating such correspondence, letters and dispatches, and that they will insure the most rapid transition of their possible as soon as the genuineness of their character is known."

The vigorous protest of the United States against the treatment of neutral mails was based largely on evidence in the possession of the State Department that, while mails had not always been searched at sea, neutral ships, upon being taken into British ports for inspection, had their mails removed, detained and otherwise interfered with. The reply does not mention this phase of the controversy.

Parcel Post Protest.

The protest was in the form of a memorandum of instructions to Ambassador Page, at London. It stated specifically that the American government was inclined to consider that parcel post shipments were "subject to the same treatment accorded goods sent by freight or express."

Germany Made Hague Proposal.

"At the time of the second conference at The Hague, in 1907," the communication says, "the German imperial government pointed out that since the telegraph offered to the belligerents means of communication more rapid and safe than the post, there was no longer any interest in considering, as formerly, postal correspondence as liable to constitute articles of contraband by analogy, and in impeding their shipment by seizure and confiscation."

"This proposition, in appearance so pacific, having inspired confidence in the other powers, they adopted this viewpoint. The full article of the convention, No. 11, of The Hague, 1907, stipulates, as is known, that henceforth postal correspondence is 'inviolable' on the sea."

In regard to parcel post shipments, the communication says: "Merchandise shipped under the shape of parcel post must not and shall not be treated differently from the merchandise shipped in any other way."

The Allied government assert their right to search general mail in the following language:

"That the inviolability of postal correspondence, stipulated by convention No. 11 of the Hague Treaty, 1907, carries by no means any prejudices to the right of the Allied governments to visit and, if need be, to stop and seize the goods which are falsely deposited in the covers, envelopes or letters contained in the mail sacks."

The text of the Allies' note, as made public by the State Department to-night, was in French. It is about two thousand words long, and opens with the statement that the "treatment of postal correspondence carried on the

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FIGHTS TOWN, KILLS HIMSELF

Skipper, Fined \$600, Wars on Tyranny—4 Deputies Shot.

ILLEGAL HUNT THE CASUS BELLI

Babylon Captain Caught Duck Poaching—Attack- ing Forces Intrenched.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]
Babylon, Long Island, April 4.—Driven mad by a \$600 fine imposed upon him for shooting wild ducks out of season, William Donley, a Great South Bay skipper, shot down four men and a woman here yesterday, intrenched himself in his home, where he defied the Sheriff to come and get him, and then, early this morning, shot himself through the head with his automatic shotgun.

From yesterday morning until shortly after midnight the frenzied man fired through the closed shutters of his dwelling at every passer-by. Four of his fellow townspeople were wounded by bullets from his revolver. A buckshot hit Mrs. Edwin M. Post, who lived next door to Donley. The men injured were all shot in the legs. They are John Clunie, William Boyne, Theodore J. Watts and Thomas Gallagher, Chief of Police—all friends of the insane man. Before Donley began the battle which ended with his suicide he drove his wife and four children from the house. Until midnight he kept up an almost continual fusillade.

Then silence came suddenly, and a deputy sheriff, creeping into the house, found the body of the man in the hallway of the second floor. His head was terribly mutilated by the shot charge of his gun.

Peace Party Fails.

All attempts at pacifism were lost on Donley. Then, after the captain had done his best to deplete the male population of Babylon, the Sheriff appeared and demanded that Donley surrender, all the recognition he received was a cheerful "Come and get me" from the invisible defender of his hearth and home. This was accompanied by a sputter of revolver fire which caused Odell to retire for strategic reasons.

The Sheriff and his deputies held a council of war to hit on a plan to overpower the captain. All suggestions made involved the uncomfortable necessity of venturing again into Donley's zone of fire. There were no volunteers for this task. The garrison was a good shot.

Several weeks ago, former friends of Donley say, the man was "framed up" by a game warden. This man, according to reports, enticed the captain into going duck shooting with him. Later the skipper was arrested for killing game out of season. The total fine imposed was \$600—a certain amount being charged for each duck killed.

Non-Combatants Withdraw.

Donley's pride was severely hurt by being led into trouble by such an obvious trick. His bank account was much more severely injured. Since then, he has been pondering sullenly on some way to get even. This morning he decided to declare war against a wholly despicable creation.

Early yesterday morning Donley sent his wife and children out of the house. Then, loading shotgun and revolver, he awaited attack.

The longed for pretext for hostilities came when Clunie and Boyne entered the Donley home to pay, as they believed, a purely social call. The captain greeted them and then made his formal declaration of war by pointing to his shotgun, which stood in the corner, and by announcing that it was long

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TEXAS BORDER TOWNS MAKE DEFENCE PLANS

[From a Staff Correspondent of The Tribune.]
El Paso, April 3.—Border towns, fearing raids by Villa bandits operating along the Texas border, are making defence plans. At Marfa a troop of cavalry scouts has been formed. It is composed wholly of men hardened to outdoor life who speak Spanish and who know how to shoot. At Presidio, Van Horn, Sierra Blanca, Shafter, Ft. Hancock, Fabens and other points along the Texas border citizen guards have been organized. At most of these towns patrols of United States troops are maintained and the citizens expect only to give aid in event of a raid.

CAVALRY DASH OUTWITTED VILLA

Dodd's Troopers Cut Off Lead of Bandit Force by Clever Marching.

By ROBERT DUNN.

General Pershing's Headquarters, San Geronimo Ranch, Chihuahua, March 31 (by wagon train to Columbus, N. M., April 3).—News of Villa's defeat and dismemberment reached us at one of the bandit's favorite hangouts, here in the heart of his Indian village country along the Santa Maria River, directly opposite the wild canyon for which he is supposed to be aiming to-day toward his last refuge just over the palisaded mountain east of us.

General Pershing, leaping from his automobile, had just found in an enormous storehouse, among stone pillars big as Luxor's, enough corn to supply for weeks any force we might muster in the valley. He had bought it, not realizing that this was one of the bandit's own storehouses until suddenly there arrived on a big cavalry horse, and in the van of the detachment which he knew was headed for us, a tall, bearded civilian in a red mackinaw—the scout Brown.

Scout Brings News of Fight.

In a moment I saw the general handling yellow slips of paper, which I knew, though we were more than eighty miles from any of our radios, must bear official messages. He conferred a while with his stay and his aid. Soon he called over to me:

"Dunn, come here. Great news!"

He let me read the yellow slips. Elation lit his blue eyes, but with it went the calmness, the spirit of confidence, that, after all, the issue was but the result of his farseeing, deliberately laid plans.

A host of things were now explained, including many of the odd, almost uncanny incidents that had befallen us in our dash that morning from Nami-quipa toward Bachinaba.

The general had early dispatched from the latter town the scout Brown to Bachinaba, but by another road than the one we were to take. Brown was to loop westward through Santa Ana and join us there. As he reached Santa Ana he fell in with the two native scouts employed by Colonel Dodd, returning with the dispatches. He took these from them, at the same moment sighting the 11th Cavalry detachment down in the valley where we were. The three made for us, toward some houses where the two scouts' homes were. They having had nothing to eat for three or four days, they were anxious to get home. But when they reached our road we had already turned back from that point, having heard from natives that Dodd had left Bachinaba. It had been a lucky move for us, as the town was probably then in the hands of Villistas. Indeed, a bicycle scout who had been ahead of us had arrived in its outskirts and, finding none of our troopers there, had returned, and by a long tienda, where we had twice crossed a dry river bed, was fired upon half a dozen times.

Fatigue Delayed Attack.

Thus the message reached us through the 11th Cavalry, who were then headed back behind us. Colonel Dodd, indeed, had heard of the whereabouts of Villa from these same scouts, some of their neighbors being employed in supplying the bandit with forage for his horses. It was they who led him through the unfrequented pass, visible just below here, on his fifty-five-mile hike toward Guerrero. But for the weariness of their horses and the apathy of the guides, said Brown, the attack would have been made earlier

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FLYING FORCE OUTSTRIPS ITS SUPPORT IN PURSUIT

Advance Column Without Communication with Pershing's Troops.

TWO U. S. SCOUTS ENGAGE BAND OF OUTLAWS IN FIGHT

Several Exchanges of Shots Occur Between Americans and Villistas Near Bachinaba Village.

By ROBERT DUNN.
(By wireless to Columbus, N. M.)

General Pershing's Headquarters, in the Field, April 2.—Encountering a fleeing band of Villistas near Guerrero to-day, American cavalry took up the pursuit. A running fight ensued. No report as to the results has been brought here.

A motorcycle scout, returning from the Guerrero region at 10 o'clock this morning, reported scattered firing north and east of Guerrero village. It came apparently from the same detached force of Villistas which yesterday drove two American scouts into a patio on the outskirts of Bachinaba, just west of Bachinaba pass, in the Continental Divide, itself only some ten or fifteen miles west of Guerrero. A fusillade at short range followed for a brief period without casualties on either side.

The hunt for Villa has carried American troops into the furthest recesses of the rugged country in this district of Guerrero, and General Pershing has been compelled to organize a new detail of his force for mountain service where cavalry cannot penetrate.

The General has taken for his model that wonderful body of the Italian army's hill scaling troops known as the Bersaglieri, and the infantrymen of the American column are going through the hardest kind of field work, negotiating ridges and ravines which mounted men never could cross or thread. Toughening exercises, long hikes over old, twisting mountain trails, and quick jumps from arroyo to arroyo in the jagged stretches between Casas Grandes and Namiquipa have prepared an arm of Pershing's force for reaching into those remote and hidden fastnesses which Villa knows so well and which he has utilized so successfully.

"AMERICAN LEGION" DIMES TO MARJORIE

Three weeks ago the American Legion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, in camp at Toronto, wrote The Tribune asking if it were true that the United States government had disapproved of Marjorie's Battleship Fund. The Tribune telegraphed in reply that the only member of the government to disapprove of the plan was Secretary of the Navy Daniels, who returned Marjorie's original dime. Yesterday this letter came into the office, accompanied by a check representing contributions from eighty-one men of the legion:

97th Overseas Battalion, C. E. F. (American Legion), Exhibition Camp, Toronto, Ont. Toronto, Ont., April 1, 1916. Managing Editor, New York Tribune, New York City, U. S. A.

Sir: We want to thank you for the courtesy of your telegram advising the status of Marjorie's Battleship Fund and also for your publication of the writer's letter. You will find inclosed a check for \$8.10, which represents the gift of the boys of the American Legion, contributed one dime at a time. Kindly send a supply of buttons which you issue to those who contribute.

We are all very happy in the prospect of going overseas to England about the middle of April. We are training at Shorncliffe or Dug-gate, and you may expect that the American Legion will give an accounting of itself that every American can be proud of. With kind regards, we remain, very truly yours, AMERICAN LEGION.

Per S. A. BEADLE, Lieutenant (Musketry Officer).

Total received from Tribune readers.....\$5,438.10
Total reported from other newspapers on April 1.....7,014.12
Grand total.....(about)\$12,452.22
Number of contributors to The Tribune.....42,743
Number of contributors to other newspapers at last report (April 1).....57,382
Grand total.....(about) 100,125

The story of how Harlem greeted Marjorie Sterrett at the Baby Parade yesterday will be found on page 8.

The Human Side of the War

In the noise and confusion of the Great War humanity seems lost. Yet out of it all has come a crop of short stories where the human note is appealingly vibrant. The best of them, the little gems of war literature, have been translated by William L. McPherson and appear in The Sunday Tribune.

Have you been reading them regularly? If not, Sunday is a good time to start. Be sure of starting by telling your newsdealer to-day to deliver your copy. You will read these stories to your children.

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